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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,781	11/18/2005	Neil Alexander Downie	06309 USA	1736

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AIR PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS, INC.
PATENT DEPARTMENT
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ALLENTOWN, PA 181951501

EXAMINER

DOUGLAS, STEVEN O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3771

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/07/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/534,781

Applicant(s)

DOWNIE, NEIL ALEXANDER

Examiner

/Steven O. Douglas/

Art Unit

3771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 29, 35-38 and 41-43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 16, 18, 19, 23-26, 44, 47, 49, 51-57, 59-61, 64 and 66 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 62 and 63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-848)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12052008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 1,2,4-6,8,9,16,18,19,23-26,29,35-38,41-44,47,49,51-57,59-64 and 66.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1,2,4-6,8,9,16,18,19,23-26,44,47,49,51,52,53-57,59-64 and 66) in the reply filed on 4/21/09 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 29,35-38 and 41-43 have been withdrawn from further consideration by Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 62 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vander Heyden (US 5,307,668).

The Vander Heyden reference discloses a gas density meter (see Fig. 5) comprising a volumetric flow meter including a turbine wheel flow meter (40,43), a conduit (unnumbered), and a regulator 24.

Claim 62 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Katsuyuki (JP 04-262408).

The Katsuyuki reference discloses a gas flow controller comprising a volumetric flow meter 2, a conduit 1 and a regulator 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 63 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuyuki in view of Vander Heyden.

The Katsuyuki reference discloses a gas flow controller (supra), but fails to disclose the volumetric flow meter as including a turbine wheel flow meter. The Vander Heyden reference discloses another gas flow controller (supra) having a turbine wheel flow meter. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute a turbine wheel flow meter as, for example, shown by Vander Heyden for the broadly disclosed volumetric flow meter of Katsuyuki wherein so doing would amount to the mere substitution of one type of volumetric flow meter for another that would work equally as well in the Katsuyuki device.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Clingman, Jr., Hirabayashi, Downie et al., and Psaros references pertain to other gas flow controllers with associated volumetric flow metering.

Claims 1,2,4-6,8,9,16,18,19,23-26,44,47,49,51,52,53-57,59-61,64 and 66 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Steven O. Douglas/ whose telephone number is (571) 272-4885. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 6:30-5:00.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steven O. Douglas/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3771

SD
7/2/09

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Art Unit: 3771

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